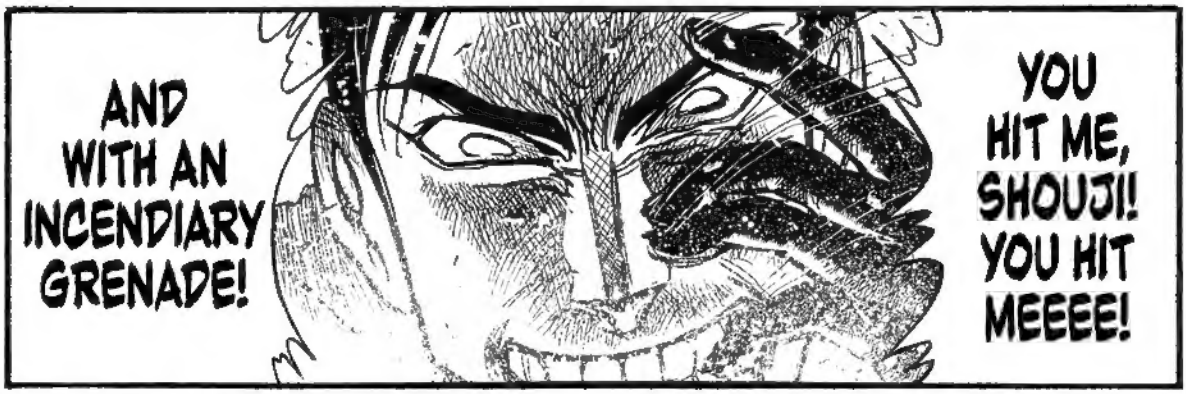
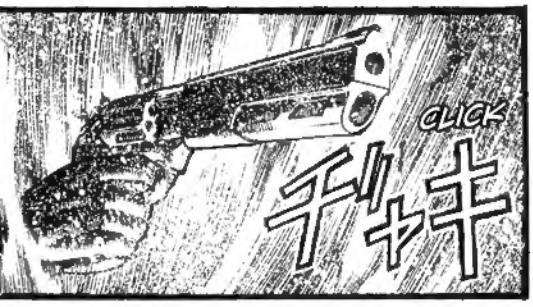
ACT 43 - SADAYOSHI'S PLAN





I GUESSED SO...
A MAGNUM WON'T DO ANYTHING EITHER...
?!
SLASH

WOOSH!
WHOA, THERE!
NOT BAD, SHOU-JI!
YOU USED IT AS A DIVERSION TO CUT THE STRINGS, HUH!
BUT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK!
YOU WERE THE ONE BEHIND THAT INCIDENT IN THIS VILLAGE 87 YEARS AGO, I GOT THAT.
YOU TOLD HER SHE WAS A DOLL!
WHY DID YOU DISGUISE YOURSELF AS ME AND MANIPULATE THAT YOUNG SHIROGANE CALLED ELEONORE?!

MY BELOVED DAUGH-TER!!
THAT GIRL, ELEONORE...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU PLANNING?!
SADA-YOSHI... NO, DEAN...

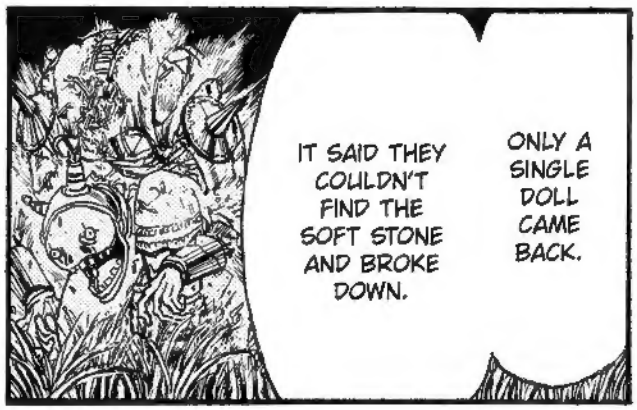
WAIT A BIT AND LISTEN, SHOUJI. YOU'RE SO IMPATIENT.
ANSWER MY QUESTION, DEAN!

SHOUJI...
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE "HUMAN DOWNLOAD THEORY?"

THE SOFT STONE WASN'T IN ANGELINA'S BODY...

I WAS WAITING AT THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN NEARBY.
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE MY SHOCK WHEN I FOUND OUT!

I HAD NO IDEA WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

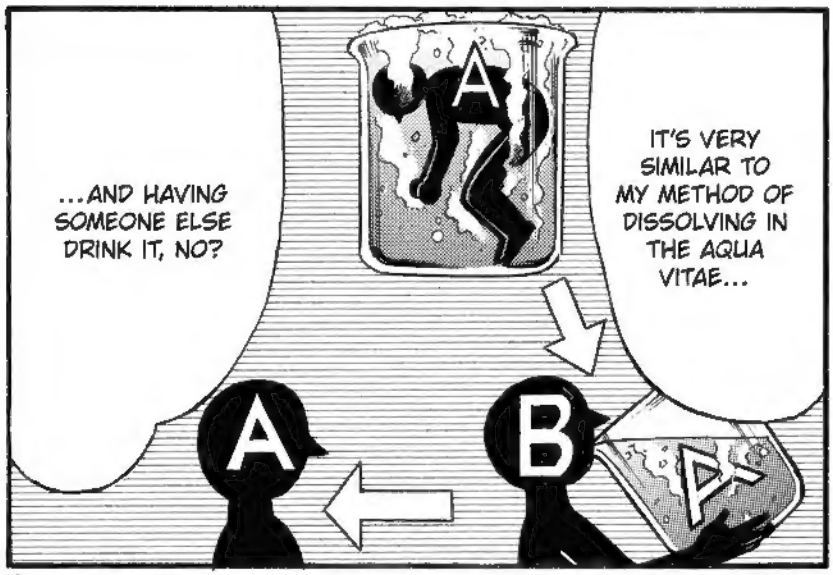

ONLY A SINGLE DOLL CAME BACK.
IT SAID THEY COULDN'T FIND THE SOFT STONE AND BROKE DOWN.

...THE FACT THAT THE SOFT STONE THAT I NEEDED TO REINCARNATE WAS GONE.

I BET THAT YOU AND GUY PROBABLY DID YOUR BEST FIGHTING THEM, BUT I WAS NOT INTERESTED IN THAT... WHAT WORRIED ME WAS...

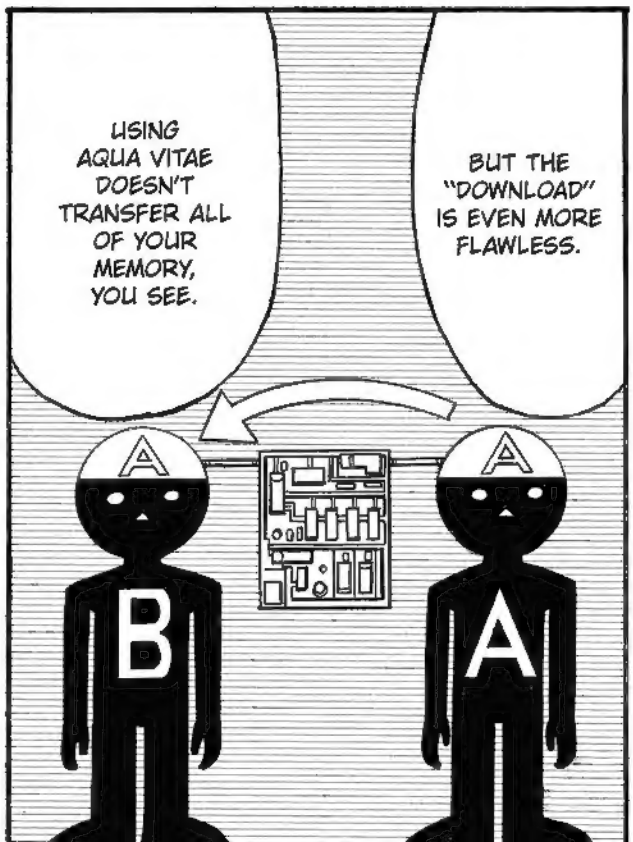
...I IMMERSED MYSELF IN RESEARCH.
AFTER THAT...

"THE HUMAN DOWNLOAD THEORY..."
THE THEORY THAT YOU CAN CONVERT ALL INFORMATION IN A PERSON'S BRAIN TO ELECTRICAL SIGNALS AND TRANSFER THEM TO THE BRAIN OF SOMEONE ELSE...

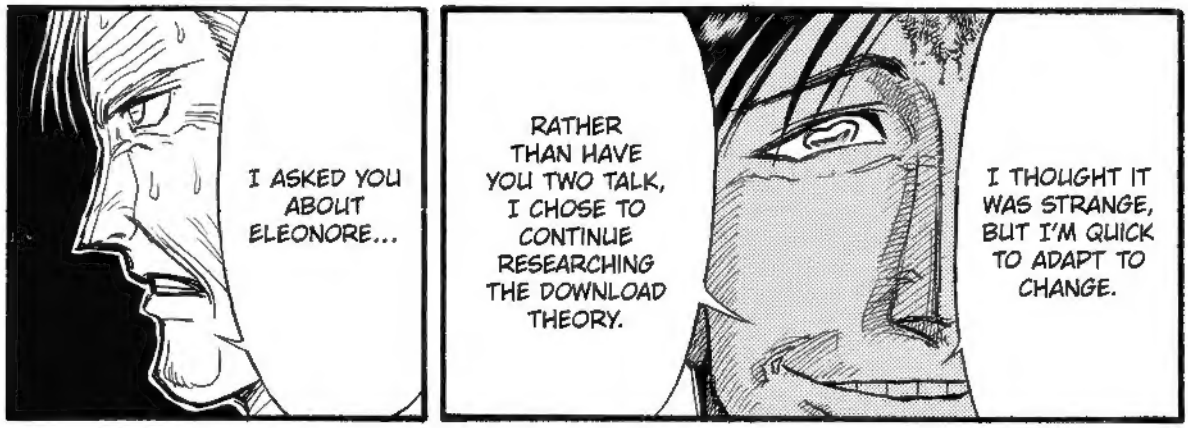

A
IT'S VERY SIMILAR TO MY METHOD OF DISSOLVING IN THE AQUA VITAE...
...AND HAVING SOMEONE ELSE DRINK IT, NO?
A
B
A

AS EXPECTED OF YOU, SHOUJI.
I BEGAN TO RESEARCH THAT.

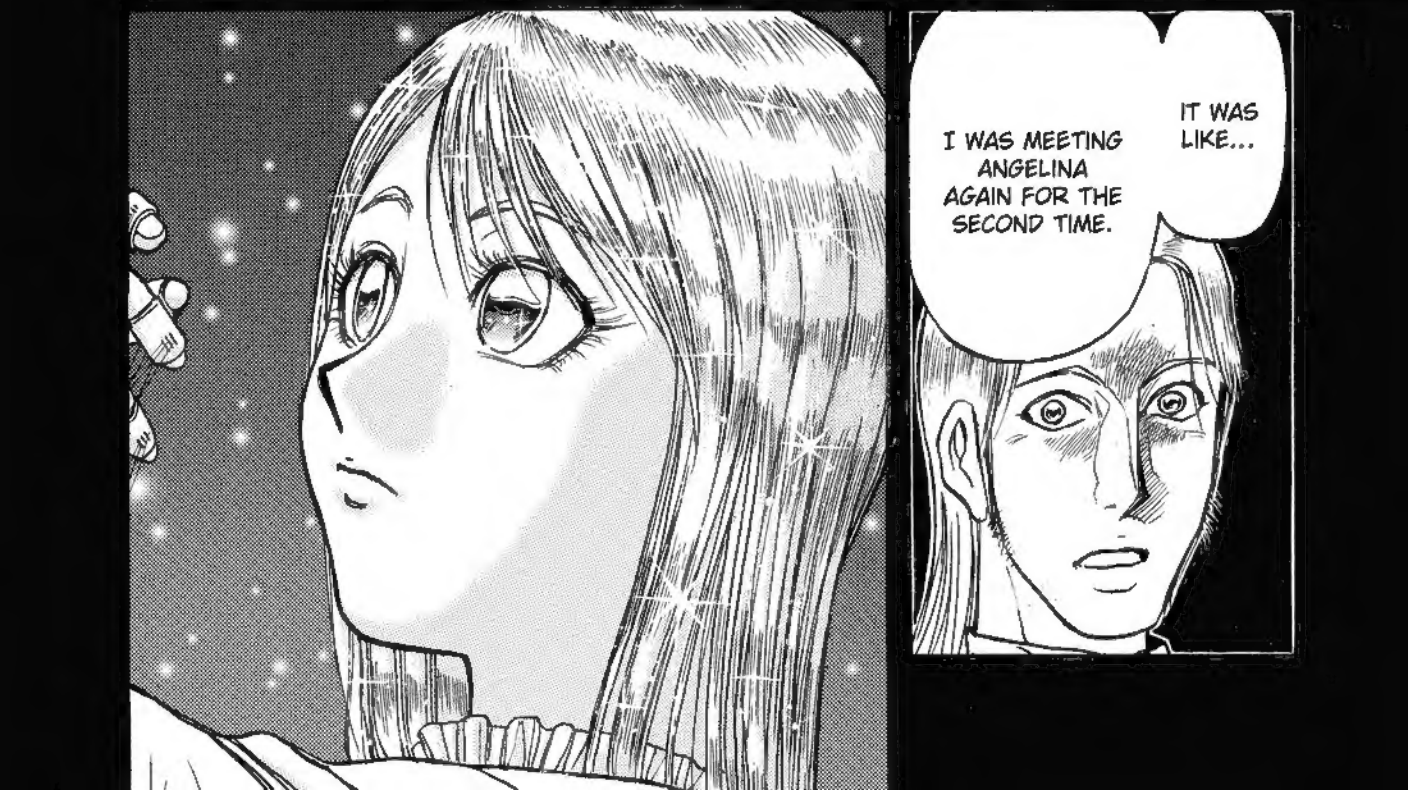
EVEN THOUGH WE DRANK THE AQUA VITAE OF THE PERSON WHO CREATED IT, BAI-YIN.
FOR INSTANCE, NONE OF THE SHIROGANE KNOW HOW TO MAKE THE SOFT STONE.

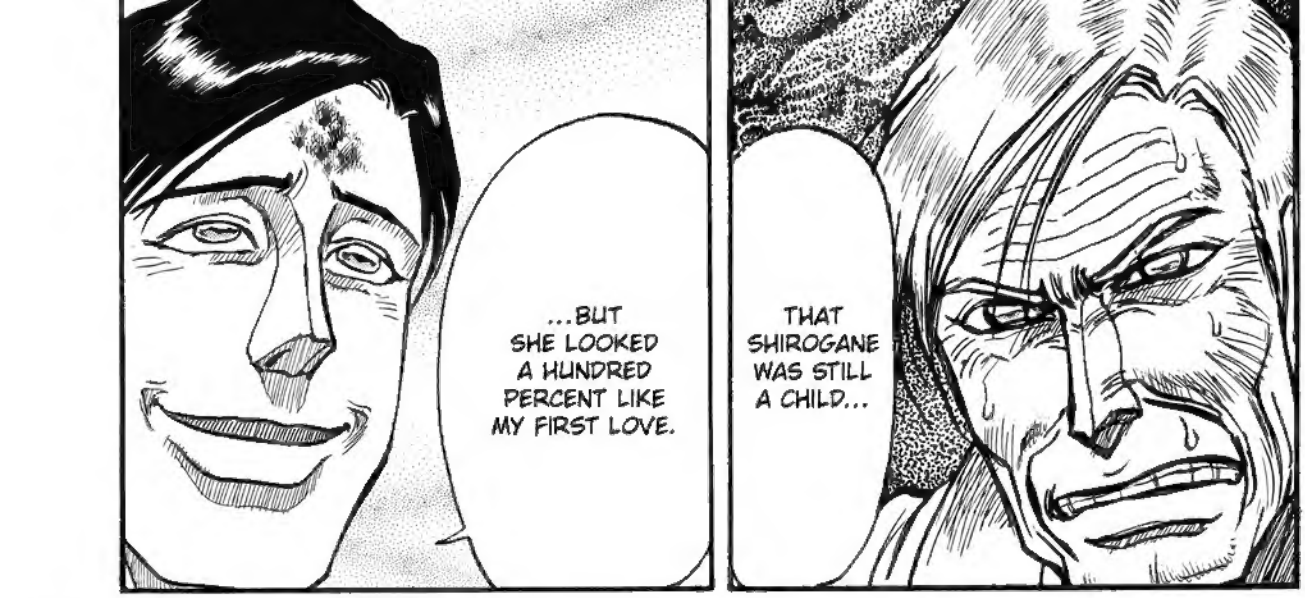

USING AQUA VITAE DOESN'T TRANSFER ALL OF YOUR MEMORY, YOU SEE.
BUT THE "DOWNLOAD" IS EVEN MORE FLAWLESS.
A
B
A
A

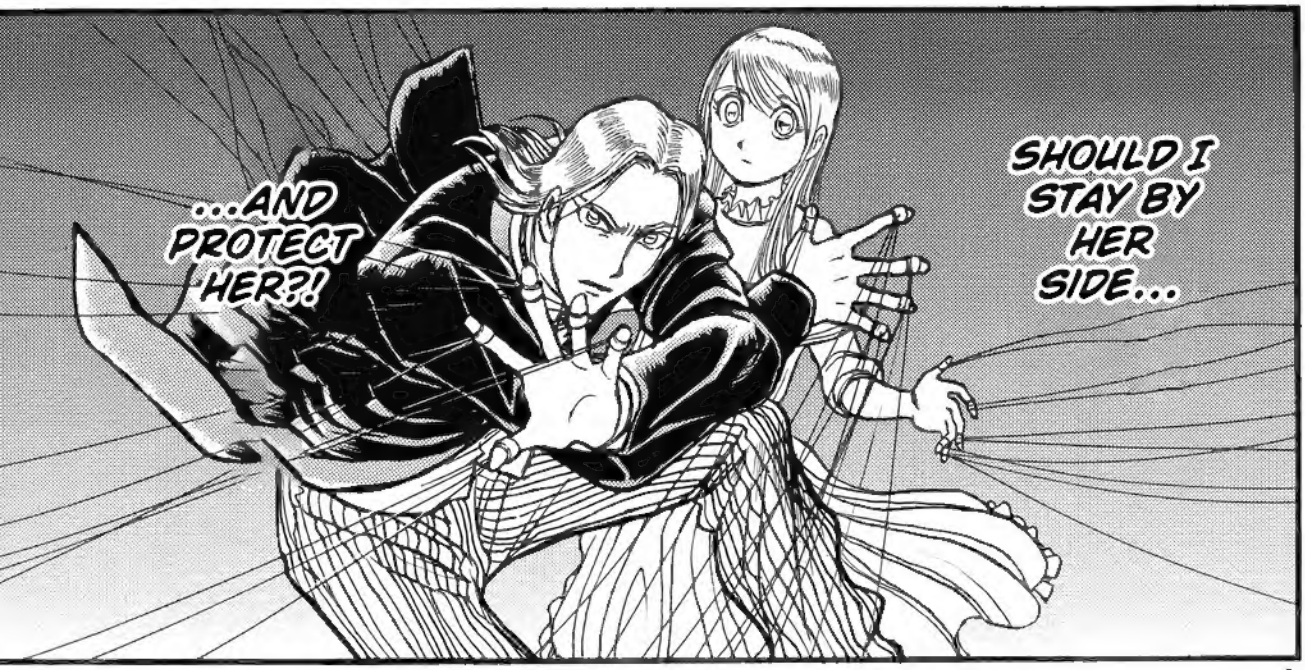
YOU AND GUY NEVER REPORTED THAT INCIDENT TO QUIBERON, RIGHT?
I SPENT DECADES ON MY RESEARCH.
...IT TOOK A LONG TIME.
HOW IS THAT RELATED TO MY QUESTION?


I ASKED YOU ABOUT ELEONORE...
RATHER THAN HAVE YOU TWO TALK, I CHOSE TO CONTINUE RESEARCHING THE DOWNLOAD THEORY.
I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE, BUT I'M QUICK TO ADAPT TO CHANGE.

WHEN I WAS BACK TO QUIBERON AS DEAN... ON A PERIODIC VISIT.
WOOSHH
ヒョオオオ
...IT HAP-PENED...


IT WAS LIKE...
I WAS MEETING ANGELINA AGAIN FOR THE SECOND TIME.


THAT SHIROGANE WAS STILL A CHILD...
...BUT SHE LOOKED A HUNDRED PERCENT LIKE MY FIRST LOVE.


SHOULD I STAY BY HER SIDE...
...AND PROTECT HER?!

I PROTECTED HER...
...JUST LIKE A BROTHER OR A FATHER.

HUHUHUH, NO, NO, OF COURSE NOT...
BECAUSE THAT'S THE METHOD I USED TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH ANGELINA.

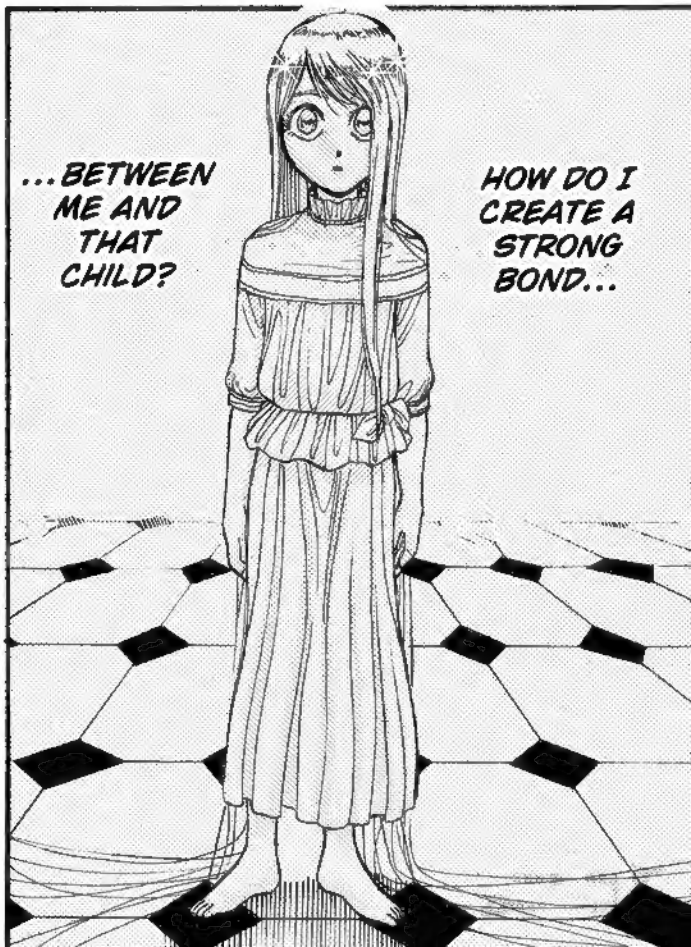
SHE RAN AWAY FROM QUIBERON WITHOUT SAYING A WORD TO ME...

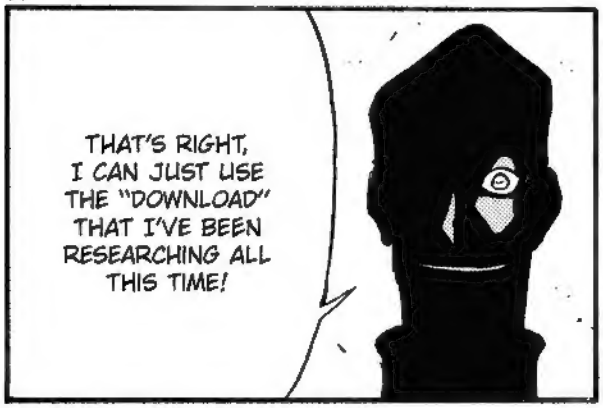
...AND HOW DID THAT END?

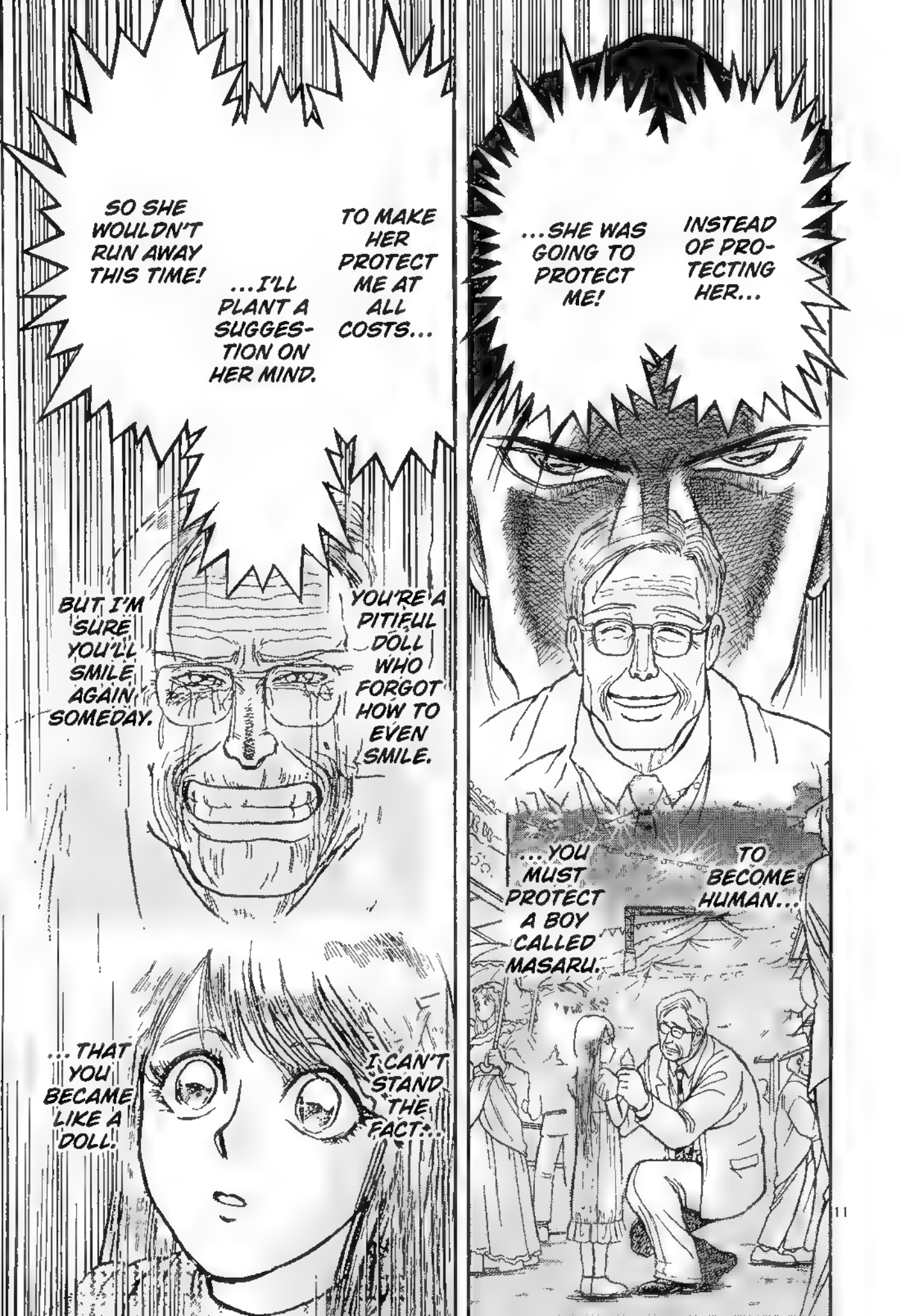
I STARTED TO THINK.
...THEN, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

SHE RAN AND MARRIED A CERTAIN SOMEBODY...

THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT OF IT.


...BETWEEN ME AND THAT CHILD?
HOW DO I CREATE A STRONG BOND...


THAT'S RIGHT, I CAN JUST USE THE "DOWNLOAD" THAT I'VE BEEN RESEARCHING ALL THIS TIME!


...SHE WAS GOING TO PROTECT ME!
INSTEAD OF PROTECTING HER...
...YOU MUST PROTECT A BOY CALLED MASARU.
TO BECOME HUMAN...
SO SHE WOULDN'T RUN AWAY THIS TIME!
...I'LL PLANT A SUGGESTION ON HER MIND.
TO MAKE HER PROTECT ME AT ALL COSTS...
BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL SMILE AGAIN SOMEDAY.
YOU'RE A PITIFUL DOLL WHO FORGOT HOW TO EVEN SMILE.
...THAT YOU BECAME LIKE A DOLL.
I CAN'T STAND THE FACT...

TO BECOME HUMAN, YOU HAVE TO PROTECT A BOY CALLED MASARU WITH YOUR LIFE.
THEN YOU WON'T BE A DOLL ANYMORE.
SHIRO-GANE!
I'LL BECOME THAT MASARU.
AND THEN...

WITH BOTH MY MEMORIES AND MY PERSONALITY DOWNLOADED INTO MASARU...
ELEONORE AND I WILL BE BOUND BY AN UNBREAKABLE BOND THIS TIME.
FIRST, THE NEW BODY THAT I WOULD USE TO OBTAIN THE ETERNAL LIFE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED.
AND SECOND, A BEAUTIFUL GUARDIAN WITH WHOM I SHARE AN UNBREAKABLE BOND.
THAT WAY, I'D GET THE TWO THINGS I WANTED IN ONE FELL SWOOP.
13
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS, DEAN...
WHAT A GOOD PLAN, RIGHT?
SEE?

FWP
FWP
SORRY 'BOUT THAT, SHOUJI. I HATE YOU, DON'T I?
...TO MANIPULATE ELEONORE'S LIFE...?
BUT WHY DID YOU HAVE TO BECOME ME...
SO I WANTED TO DO A LITTLE MISCHIEF WITH THAT RIGHTEOUS FACE OF YOURS.
ZASH
ZASH

SO I USED YOUR FACE TO ARRANGE MY NEXT LOVE!
THAT FACE WHO SO COLDLY STOLE ANGELINA FROM ME!

...BUT SOMETHING IN MY PLAN WAS BOTHERING ME, YOU SEE.
YOU MAKE ME WANT TO THROW UP!
RE-PUL-SIVE ...

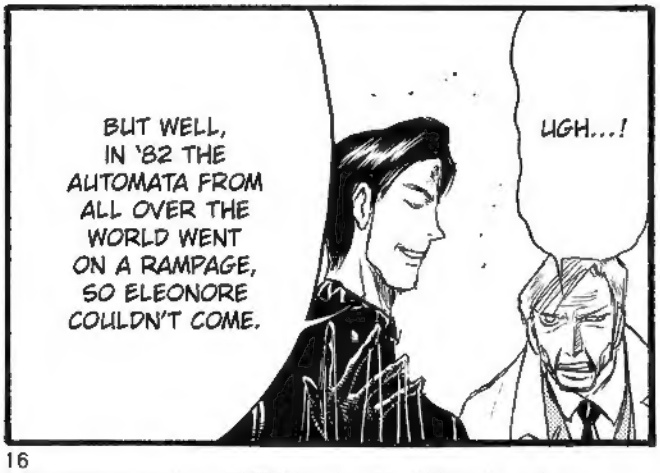
THAT IS, WHEN I FINALLY DOWNLOAD MYSELF TO MASARU HERE IN JAPAN... HOW WOULD I CALL SHIROGANE TO BE BY MY SIDE?
ONCE MY DOWNLOAD PLAN IS COMPLETED...

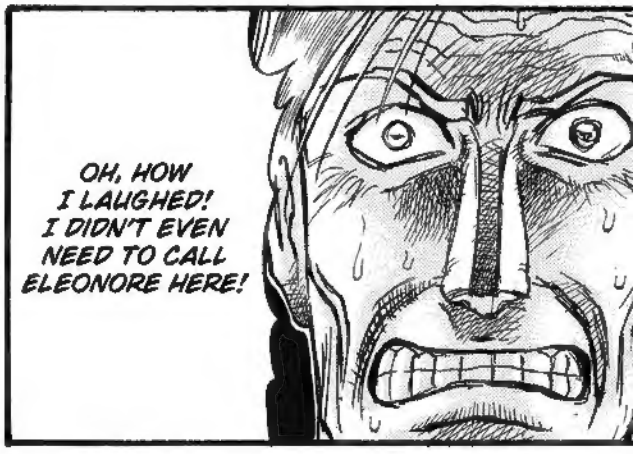
HUHAHAHAHAHAH! HOW THOUGHTFUL OF YOU, SHOUJI! YOU WERE MY CLOSE FRIEND FOR OVER A CENTURY, YOU KNEW EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED TO DO!!

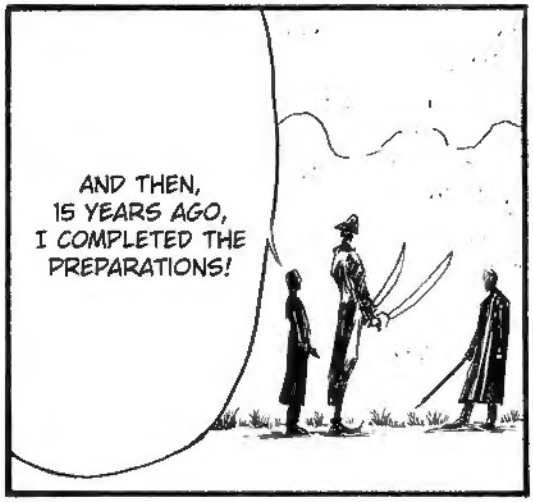
I THOUGHT IT WOULD WORK IF I USED YOUR FACE TO ASK LUCILLE TO TAKE ELEONORE TO JAPAN...
YOU'RE THE MAIN SHIROGANE IN JAPAN!

THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ME TO DO THAT!
BUT... HUHUH...

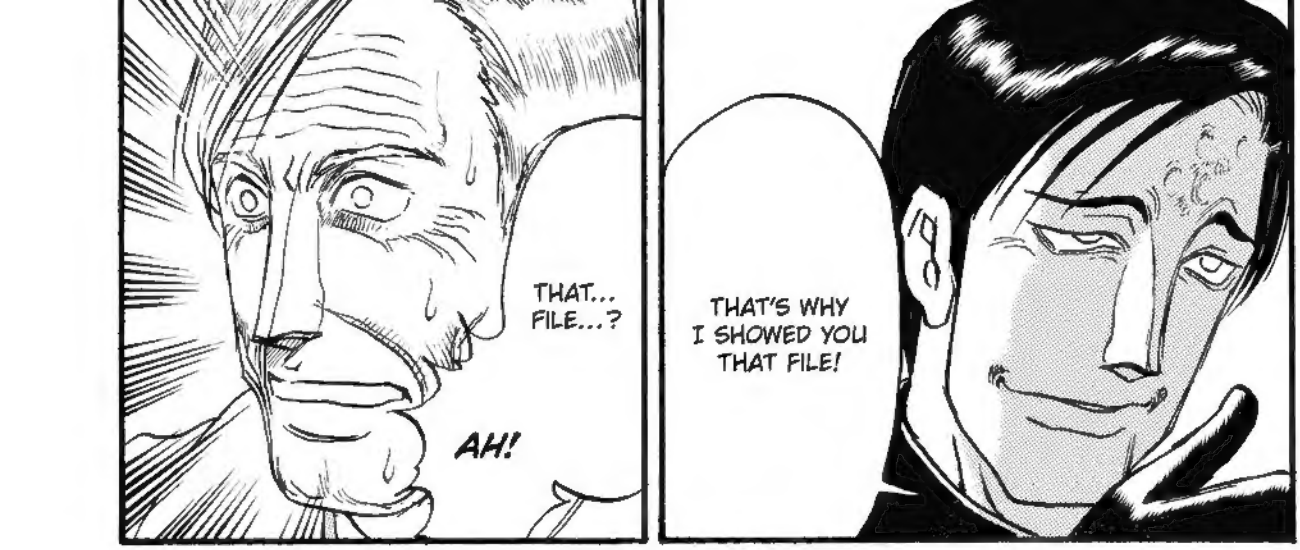
...I WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONSIGN ME WITH THE YOUNGEST FEMALE SHIROGANE THAT YOU HAVE.
IN ORDER TO SEARCH FOR THE SOFT STONE THAT WAS LOST IN JAPAN...
AH!
YOU WENT AHEAD AND SUMMONED ELEONORE TO JAPAN!!

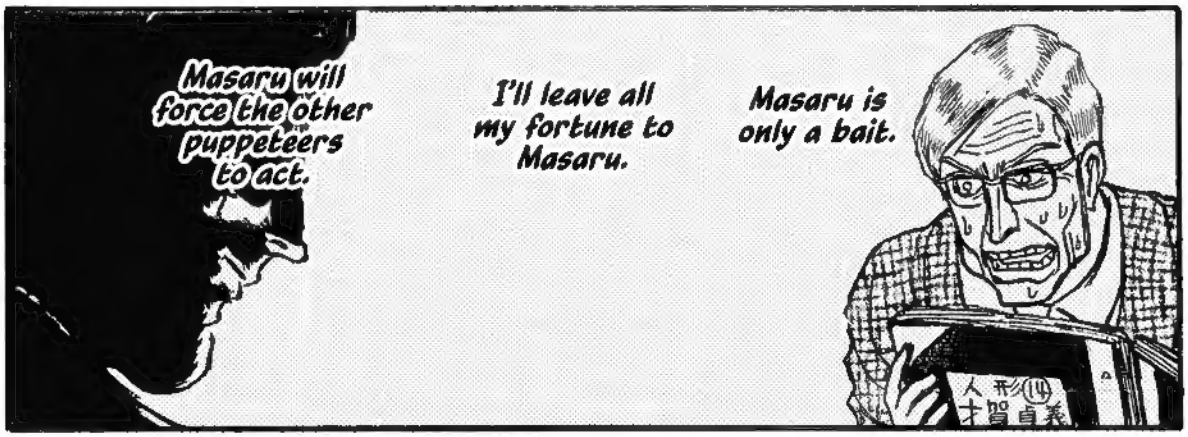

BUT WELL, IN '82 THE AUTOMATA FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WENT ON A RAMPAGE, SO ELEONORE COULDN'T COME.
UGH...!


OH, HOW I LAUGHED! I DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO CALL ELEONORE HERE!

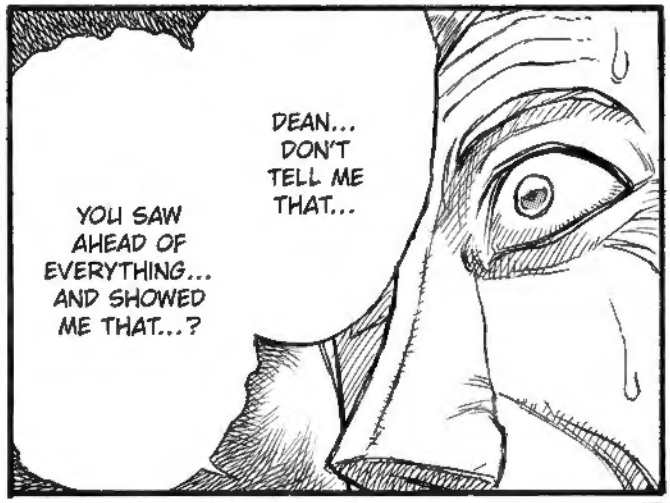

AND THEN, 15 YEARS AGO, I COMPLETED THE PREPARATIONS!

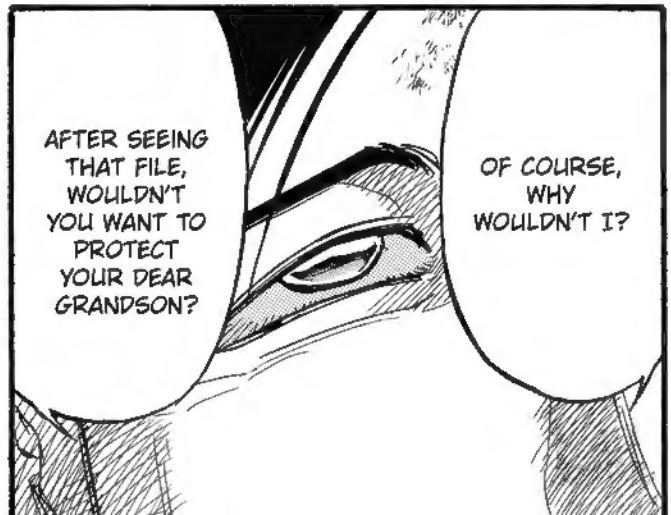
I STILL HADN'T FOUND A SUITABLE "MASARU" AT THAT TIME, AND THE DOWNLOAD WASN'T READY YET...
BUT THAT WAS EVEN MORE CONVENIENT FOR ME.


THAT...
FILE...?
AH!
THAT'S WHY
I SHOWED YOU
THAT FILE!


Masaru will force the other puppeteers to act.
I'll leave all my fortune to Masaru.
Masaru is only a bait.

DEPLOY ELEONORE TO JAPAN.
THAT'S WHY YOU ASKED QUIBERON TO SEND YOU ELEONORE, RIGHT?


DEAN...
DON'T
TELL ME
THAT...
YOU SAW
AHEAD OF
EVERYTHING...
AND SHOWED
ME THAT...?


AFTER SEEING
THAT FILE,
WOULDN'T
YOU WANT TO
PROTECT
YOUR DEAR
GRANDSON?
OF COURSE,
WHY
WOULDN'T I?

NEVER EXPECTING THAT I WOULD BE DOWNLOADED INTO HIM!!
THEN, YOU TOLD MASARU...
"SHIRO-GANE WILL PROTECT YOU!"

DASH
YEAH. ALL THAT'S LEFT...
...IS FOR YOU TO DIE RIGHT HERE!

DAMN YOU!!!
DAMN YOU! DAMN YOU!!
YOU'RE TELLING ME I DID EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO YOUR PLAN?!